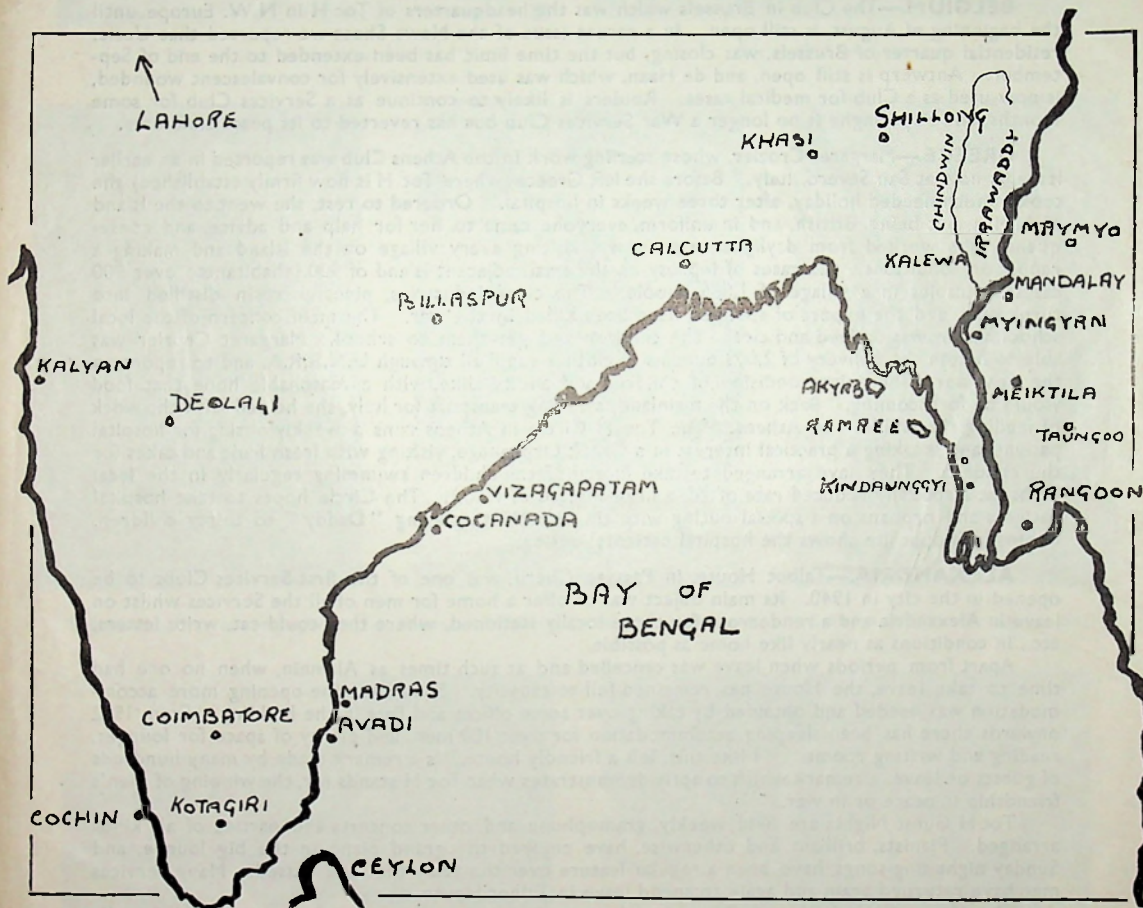


## NEWS



## SHEET

## TOC H IN THE FAR EAST.



The Toc H Services Clubs at present operating in the Far East are shown on the outlined map above. Toc H has played an active part in welfare work for the fighting men in India and Burma since 1943. Although the Japanese war is over at last, welfare work must continue as long as British and Allied Troops remain in the Far East, and Toc H will establish Clubs as the need arises and will maintain those already open.

**GERMANY.**—At the time of writing Toc H has eight Services Clubs in Germany. At SPANDAU, about seven miles from Berlin's centre, Toc H opened a Club housed in two buildings standing in a typical German beer garden amongst woods. One of the buildings was a dance hall and skittle alley. Hard by the railway station at HANOVER is the Toc H Club which caters mainly for men in transit, who would otherwise have nowhere to sleep. The forty beds are booked every night. Thirty miles north of Hanover there is a Club at FALLINGBOSTEL, and another is at GOTTINGEN. Two more Clubs are at LUBBECKE, headquarters of 21st Army Group, and at BAD SALZUFLEN, where Toc H Headquarters has moved from Brussels. One of the most picturesque of the Clubs in Germany is at SOEST. Here Toc H has taken over the famous "Ye Wilde Man" hotel. R.A.F. bombing damaged the back of the building slightly, but the main part is as it was in the piping days of peace, a very old, very charming hotel famed for its superb cuisine and cellar. In the Rhur, one of the extremely few towns that escaped annihilation from bombing is HERNE, and here the Toc H Club is mainly used by R.A.F. (A.D. Wing) R.E. and R.O.D. Troops.

**BELGIUM.**—The Club in Brussels which was the headquarters of Toc H in N.W. Europe until the beginning of August, is still open. In a recent issue of the News Sheet we reported that Uccle, residential quarter of Brussels, was closing, but the time limit has been extended to the end of September. Antwerp is still open, and de Haan, which was used extensively for convalescent wounded, is now used as a Club for medical cases. Roulers is likely to continue as a Services Club for some months, and Poperinghe is no longer a War Services Club but has reverted to its peace time uses.

**GREECE.**—Margaret Crozier, whose sterling work in the Athens Club was reported in an earlier issue, is now at San Severo, Italy. Before she left Greece (where Toc H is now firmly established) she took a much-needed holiday, after three weeks in hospital. Ordered to rest, she went to the island of Aegina, but being British, and in uniform, everyone came to her for help and advice, and consequently she worked from daylight to sundown, visiting every village on the island and making a report on conditions. Six cases of leprosy on the small adjacent island of 900 inhabitants; over 800 cases of scabies in a village of 1,085 people. The chief industries, pinetree resin distilled into turpentine, and the export of sponges, have been killed by the war. The main concern of the local schoolmaster was to feed and clothe the children and get them to school. Margaret Crozier was able to hasten the delivery of 2,000 bundles of clothes supplied through U.N.R.R.A. and to report on the near-starvation-point condition of children and adults alike, with a reasonable hope that food would be forthcoming. Back on the mainland, awaiting transport for Italy, she helped with the work of feeding the children in Athens. The Toc H Circle in Athens runs a weekly outing for hospital patients and is taking a practical interest in a Greek Orphanage, visiting with fresh fruit and cakes for the children. They have arranged to take fifteen of the children swimming regularly in the local baths (at a specially reduced rate of 2d. a head instead of 1/6d.). The Circle hopes to take hospital patients and orphans on a special outing with thirty patients playing "Daddy" to thirty children. Photograph opposite shows the hospital patients' outing.

**ALEXANDRIA.**—Talbot House, in Passage Cherif, was one of the first Services Clubs to be opened in the city in 1940. Its main object was to offer a home for men of all the Services whilst on leave in Alexandria and a rendezvous for those locally stationed, where they could eat, write letters, etc., in conditions as nearly like home as possible.

Apart from periods when leave was cancelled and at such times as Alamein, when no one had time to take leave, the House has remained full to capacity. Soon after the opening more accommodation was needed and obtained by taking over some offices and flats in the building. From 1942 onwards there has been sleeping accommodation for over 100 men, and plenty of space for lounges, reading and writing rooms. 'I like this, it's a friendly house,' is a remark made by many hundreds of guests on leave, a remark which so aptly demonstrates what Toc H stands for, the winning of men's friendship in peace or in war.

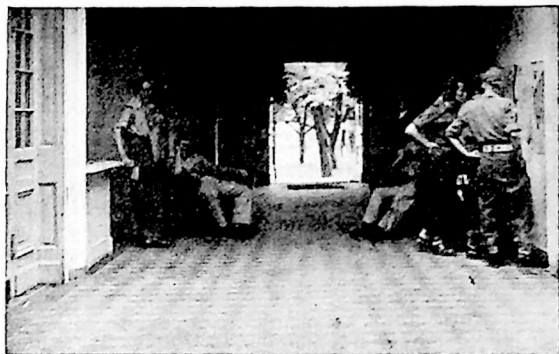
Toc H Guest Nights are held weekly, gramophone and other concerts and parties of all kinds arranged. Pianists, brilliant and otherwise, have enjoyed the grand piano in the big lounge, and Sunday night sing-songs have been a regular feature over the years that are passed. Many Services men have returned again and again to spend leave in Talbot House.

The House Chapel is open day and night—a quiet room where men can get strength for the battles they go forth to fight, and in which so many have died. Holy Communion Services have been held week by week, and each evening at 9.15 the bell (a Naval shell case) is a reminder that prayers are being said for Victory and Peace on Earth.

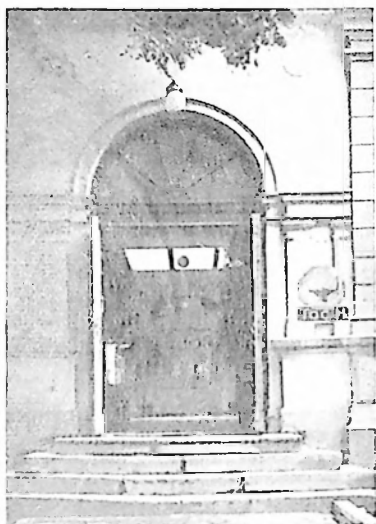
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dunnet, Warden and Matron of the Club for the past two years, have now gone to Italy; where Howard Dunnet becomes Commissioner for Toc H Services in C.M.F.



Toc H Club at Spandau, Berlin.



Toc H Club at Gottingen.



Entrance to Club at Gottingen.



Wounded Soldiers at Talbot House, Gibraltar.



Entrance to Talbot House, Gibraltar.



Toc H Party for Hospital Patients. Athens, Greece.



Greek Helpers with Convalescent Soldiers.

## AND NOW—TOC H POST-WAR!

**WAR SERVICE REMAINS.**—The major war in Europe is won—but peace is still a long way off. In the Far East enormous and increasing effort for a long time may be needed before the Japanese are beaten, as they must be. Nearer home the Armies of Occupation are taking up their stations—for how many years of duty? At home Demobilisation is going to be a long and difficult process. Millions of men and women cannot yet exchange uniform for 'civvies.' In other words, the 'War Service' of Toc H to the three fighting Services is still urgently called for and must be maintained. We are confident that many of the friends who have so long stood by this work will help to maintain it for a while longer.

**PEACE-MAKING.**—Peace has to be made, and, as we already see, it is as difficult and dangerous a task as making war; it is likely to take a good deal longer. In this peace-making world, so confusing to the plain man and woman, Toc H has its part to play. Born in the first World War, Toc H was tried out—and not found wanting—by thousands of men and women for twenty years of peace before World War No. 2. For Toc H is a way of thinking and living, and the Clubs and Canteens of Toc H in all theatres of war during the last six years are a natural outcome of that way. *They are only one of the jobs Toc H has done; they are not Toc H itself.*

**WHAT IS OUR REAL AIM?**—Toc H is a peace-maker. Its true job is, and always has been, making peace—in other words, bringing people to know each other and, in company with each other, to seek and do God's will. Its method is as simple as possible. *Friendship* is the aim—and men can't be friends if they don't meet. The little local Branch of Toc H (there were 1,500 of them for men and some hundreds for women, in every Continent, before the war) brings people together regularly. It does not regard differences of race, class, income, education, political opinion or Christian conviction as obstacles; it enjoys them and uses them as a rich variety of contributions to the common stock of the Toc H 'family.' This mixture can only be kept sweet by a strong foundation of faith, by much give-and-take and a lively sense of humour. But the effort is well worth making. If nations would make it, in the same spirit, would another world war be conceivable?

**WHAT IS OUR WORK?**—Toc H brings people together by *Service*. It builds up little teams of friends—but a team has no meaning unless it plays a game. The game of Toc H is playing "the good neighbour," or, in more formal words, voluntary social service to the community in any direction where opportunity opens a way. The directions already have been legion—from Scouting to serving on the Town Council, from digging an invalid's garden on a Saturday afternoon to years of service in a Leper colony.

Let us be outspoken about the motive underlying Friendship and Service in Toc H. This is not spare-time amusement or mere 'philanthropy.' It is based much deeper, on the Christian conviction that this is the kind of way in which God means men and women to live and work together.

**WHAT NEXT?**—With its younger members away on active service and their elders at home busy with war work, Toc H has been hard put to it to keep its Branch life going, but in most cases has succeeded. Now the young members are coming back, bringing with them a great reinforcement of new men and women who have met Toc H for the first time in our Services Clubs, in "Circles" on board ship or in the desert, or in Prisoner of War camps. Their eagerness to join the 'family' and begin work with it is beyond doubt. And their work will be to help build, in whatever way they can, that better world for all, of which so much has been said, so little yet done.

**BUILDERS ALL.**—There is also, we hope and believe, another big reinforcement to the life and work of Toc H coming from among those who have steadily and generously backed its war work, not only with their money but with their minds and hearts. We need the same help and understanding now for new jobs—the tasks of peace, no less urgent than those of war.

When the war broke out Toc H decided to stake all it had on War Service, to 'go broke' if need be, in the doing of a job which challenged it. Now that peace is breaking out Toc H faces old tasks and great new opportunities with the same determination and with most inadequate means. Members are giving what they can, often more than they can, and they are sure that many others will stand by them as Toc H Builders.

If anyone who reads this page would like to know more, literature and particulars of the "Toc H Builders" scheme, already well established, will gladly be supplied by the Builders' Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, 47, Francis Street, London, S.W.1.